The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

FEBRUARY 2009 | Volume 5, Issue 2 | Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

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AHH! February!

A month when all we **really** want to do is to hibernate… But duty calls, and we still get up in the morning and go to work, feed the dog, chase the cats, or what ever you do to fill in the last dark days of winter.

Speaking of dark days, Marian Gurley, long time wife and life partner of Worth W7WG passed away after a short illness. Worth, our thoughts and prayers go with you this month. There will be a memorial and celebration of the life and times of Marian Gurley at the Tacoma Mountaineers 2302 N. 30th from 2-5 PM February 22nd 2009.

Also, as noted elsewhere in this publication, the RCT will also hold a birthday celebration for Marian at the RCT clubhouse of Saturday March 14th at 5:30 PM.

The month of March is coming though, and that means that good times are coming, if we can only be patient! March is also a big contest month with ARRL DX kicking off the month and CQ WPX ending it! Both big contests and a good opportunity to fill in your log with some juicy DX!

March is also a good month to get started on the 'ol antenna farm! With the advent of warmer weather, all good hams should be planning the next big antenna…

Speaking of antennas… Field day is also coming up. It will be here before you know it. It's never too early to begin making plans and thinking about what you want to do for FD. Personally, I'm still thinking about another ten meter attempt, but its still to early to make any final plans. Be sure to think about it, and let the FD planners know if you would be interested in being a band captain, or taking on any other FD task.

73 for now, from beautiful down town Lakewood, Washington, DE Gary WG7X!

A Jot from Jill.....

I hope this finds each of you staying warm, dry and healthy! This time of year tends to spread many germs and viruses around so be sure to take good care of yourself!

The first club meeting of the year was a big success and it was interesting to hear many of you tell us your amateur radio beginnings and let us know who influenced you in this great hobby. We didn't have enough time to hear from everyone so we will plan on doing it again sometime soon. If you haven't had a chance to come to a meeting this year or stop by the clubhouse, I encourage you to break the ice and just do it. You'd be surprised at who you might run into that you haven't seen in a long time. Some of you might know that we have some great things to give away at the upcoming club meetings. I did a bit of shopping at HRO. MFJ Dual Band Antennas, ARRL Desktop Repeater Directories, Soldering Irons, LCD Volt/Kilo-Watt Hour Monitors and Battery Tender Jr. by Powerwerx to name a few. Are you feeling lucky?

As many of you know, Worth Gurley, W7WG, lost the love of his life recently. Her name was Marian and if you were fortunate enough to meet her you can count yourself blessed. Marian and Worth had just been to our home for a get-together and they were both reminiscing about Frank's Victor Talking Machine. They both told us stories of how they use to listen to one in the good ole days. The club will be remembering Marian at the clubhouse on March 14th at 5:30 p.m. This is just about a week after Marian would have turned 89 so we are having a birthday party for her as well as a potluck. There will be more details to follow so be sure to look for an email coming your way. If you are interested in donating to help make the party for her more fun, you can send or give your donations to Rick Rose, KE7EMW. There will be cake, ice cream, balloons and maybe some old fashioned music on the ole Victrola!

Take care and I hope to see all of you sometime soon.
Jill, K7JIL

Here is something to think about. I use to say it as a kid and I hope you will remember it.
"Smile awhile and while you smile, someone else will smile and soon there will be miles and miles of smiles and life is more worthwhile because you smile"

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BOARD MEETING
7 January 2009

The7 January 2009 board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:
President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Vice President:Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Joe Lester – K7AWJ
Board Member:Al Burleson – K7HW
Board Member: Gary McAdams – WG7X
Board Member:Frank Palmer – AC7JY
Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 12 Names on the attendance roster

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Minutes from the 3 December 2008 board meeting were approved as coordinated / corrected by e-mail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reports the usual bank statements, and utility bills. In addition the license renewal for our second generator, Marsh Insurance Company Equipment Insurance listing update request, the Department of National Resources lease renewal for the Crawford Mountain repeater arrived along with a request for proof of liability coverage.

TREASURER'S REPORT: None available (Larry KD4VOM reported the bank balances from the bank statements).

ILLNESS AND SILENT KEY: The Club regrets the report that Ray Carlson, W7RDZ became a Silent Key in December

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Library Report: Doug Oakman AD7AV provided a summary of Library acquisitions and activities for the calendar year 2008. He also provided the Library plan and budget for 2009. The Library requests approval of the 2009 Library Budget in the amount of $ 435 to purchase new books, old books and continue our subscriptions.

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to fund the Radio Club of Tacoma Library in the amount of $ 435.00 for the calendar year 2009.

A copy of the full library report including 64 2008 acquisition list is attached to the original copy of the minutes.

Membership Report: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports the end of year 2008 membership count stood at 313, and as of this meeting is 317. Rick also reports that he is working to get the annual membership renewal package ready for mailing. The Board approved continuing to use the annual survey form.

Awards and Christmas Banquet: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports that there were 55 members and guests on the attendance roster although there were likely many more who did not sign in. The Awards Banquet expenses included Door Prizes: $ 127.99; Certificates: $14.12; other expenses: $ 74.16; HRO Raffle Prize $150 and the Doc Spike award cost unknown.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Furnace Repair: We know that one of the two heating elements in the electric furnace is inoperative. Steve Blacksten AD7VL brought tools to open the furnace to view the heating element installation. Steve believes the job is complicated enough to have a professional do the work. Unfortunately the basement area has about 8 to 10 inches of standing water due to the recent heavy rains and we were unable to get to the furnace.

Following a lengthy discussion, Frank Palmer AC7JY was asked to secure a bid for the repair of the heating elements with the recommendation that both elements be replaced during the process.

Basement water: The water in the basement was discussed as well, noting that the Board took no action on last year's recommendations on how to prevent the basement from flooding. Al K7HW, Frank AC7JY, Rick KE7EMW, and others discussed the fact that AC7JY is in possession of a portable gas powered pump that will pump out the excess water from the basement. With the assistance of Al K7HW and Frank AC7JY the water will be removed from the basement. In addition, the pump will remain at the clubhouse to use there as necessary. The pump will not be loaned out from the RCT clubhouse.

The Board asked Steve Blacksten AD7VL to secure cost estimates/bids on construction underground drains to carry the water from the downspouts away from the building.

Salmon Run: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports that last year's Salmon Run raised $ 4037.00 with one pledge of $ 92.00 outstanding. There was no report on the projects recommended to use the Salmon Run fund for.

IRT Account: Larry Watson KD4VOM reviewed the previously approved Internet Resources Team establishment and the associated SOP and Bank Account. He plans, with the new Treasurer Joe Lester K7AWJ to establish the IRT Bank account. We need from the IRT Team their choices for Bank Account signatories.

Jacket Raffle: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports that the RCT Jacket raffle had 14 tickets sold raising $ 70.00 for the club.

Members Only Signs: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports that he is still working on the signs for the stairwell limiting upstairs access to club members, or their invited guests only.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting Start Time: Jill, K7JIL proposed that we change the start time for Board meetings to 7 pm. Following general discussion it was agreed to. ***Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to change the Board Meeting Start time to 7 pm.***

Recurring and Routine Bills:

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to authorize payment of the Radio Club of Tacoma's routine and recurring bills. There was a question about the list of recurring and routine bills and Larry KD4VOM promised to have the list at the next Board meeting.

Review and concurrence of meeting minutes by e-mail: Larry Watson KD4VOM requested Board approval of using the e-mail process for coordinating, reviewing and concurring with meeting minutes. There was a discussion on what constituted final approval of the minutes, with the result being the final approval process which generally occurs at the next meeting. We were informed that the Washington State Attorney General has prohibited "Voting" by e-mail. This appears to leave us with the dilemma over how to make time sensitive decisions when convening a physical meeting is not practical or possible.

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to continue the current e-mail review, correction and coordination process, followed by formal approval at the next following regular meeting.

Club Financial Account Changes: Larry Watson KD4VOM presented the changes in authorization to our financial accounts resulting from the election of new officers.

WAMU Checking Account:

Add: Joe Lester Jr. K7AWJ and Larry Watson KD4VOM

Remove: Gary McFadden K7UPG and any others

WAMU Hamfest Account:

Add: Rick Rose KE7EMW; Paul LeBlanc K7AXJ and Larry Watson KD4VOM

Remove: Steve Blacksten AD7VL and Harry Adams W7HSA

WAMU VE Account:

Add: Jon Hamilton AD7AW Remove Gary McFadden K7UPG

Club Repeater for RACES/ARES Net: Ken Gibson N7ELF presented a request to use the club 147.28 MHz repeater on Monday evenings at 6:45 pm for 15 minutes to support the Pierce County ARES/RACES Zones 3 & 4 emergency communications net. In case of a practice SET or an actual emergency, the ARES/RACES zones 3 and 4 groups are to have shared use of the repeater – allowing for normal operations and communications at the same time.

Motion: It was moved, seconded and approved to grant permission for Ken Gibson N7ELF to use the club 147.28 repeater to support the Pierce County ARES/RACES zones 3 & 4 emergency communications net.

A copy of Ken Gibson N7ELF's proposal and detailed use statement is attached to the original copy of these minutes.

Club Access/Key List: Jill K7JIL had requested a report on who has Club access and keys, but due to the long meeting agenda, this topic was rescheduled for next month.

Club Property Loan: Larry KD4VOM reported that the Planning Team is currently developing a draft Test and Repair procedure which will address recent requests to borrow club test equipment for club member use. Frank AC7JY advised that he is also working on a similar proposal/recommendation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RCT "Radio Active" Outing: Steve Blacksten AD7VL provided a reminder that we have reservations at the American Sunset RV park in Westport for April 10-11-12. Those planning to attend should make their reservations by calling 1-800-569-2267 and indicate that they are part of the Radio Club of Tacoma group to get their discount rate.

Straight Key Night: Jill K7JIL expressed her thanks for another job well done with this year's Straight Key Night. Thanks to all who made it happen and contributed to another fun event.

Recognition Certificates: Jill K7JIL took the opportunity to present special recognition certificates to three who were unable to attend the Awards Banquet; Al Burleson K7HW, Doug Oakman AD7AB, and John Clarke AC7WW

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Copy Machine and BARK: John Clarke AC7WW reported that the copy machine had been acting up and he and Connie were not able to complete the BARK copies for mailing. He asked the board for a decision on how to proceed. The Board asked John to work with Mick Pier on the copier problem and if after 10 days the copier was not working, have the work done commercially. It was recommended that Steve Blacksten AD7VL provide the contact information for the printing service he recommended to John.

Club Badges: John Clarke AC7WW reports that the club badge costs have gone up, from $ 7.62 each (includes tax) to $ 8.98 (includes tax). In addition, John has been absorbing the cost of padded envelopes and mailing which add an estimated $2.00 for each badge mailed, bringing the total to just over $ 11.00.

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed to adjust the cost of membership badges to $ 11.00

Color Copy Machine: Rick Rose KE7EMW is actively researching the costs and benefits that may accrue from the possible purchase of a laser color copy machine. For example, he will not be able to produce the quality color covers for this year's membership roster using his current inkjet printer.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm

GENERAL MEETING
14 January, 2009MINUTES

The 14 January, 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:33 PM.

Officers and board members present:
President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL
Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY
Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA
Board Member: Gary Kohtala – K7EK

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 49 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. Among others, Don Field reported his new call, KE7RTC and our newest member Ian Haverluk KE7TEV.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

Marian Worth is in the hospital with pneumonia, and Al Burleson K7HW is ill as well.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence & Calendar: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank statements along with the Crawford Mountain repeater site lease agreement and several insurance policy renewals.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Financial information was available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports the current membership stands at 318, and the annual renewal packages should be in the mail by month's end. Rick also noted the need to increase the Club Badge fee to $11.00 due to increased costs. New badges will b made available at meetings for a few times before mailing to members in order to minimize the club's expenses.

VE Report: John AC7WW reports that candidates outnumbered the Volunteer Examiners seventeen to six at the Radio Club of Tacoma clubhouse. Tuesday, January 13, 2009 was the smallest VE turn out I have ever seen. Twenty nine elements were graded, with eleven candidates passing element two, four passing element three, and three passing element four. Ten new Technicians joined the Amateur ranks, two candidates upgraded to General and three upgraded to Extra Class. Two candidates failed to earn an upgrade or an initial license. One candidate went from not having a license to Extra Class.

A nine year old young lady became an amateur radio operator by passing the Technician examination.

The next scheduled testing session is Tuesday February 10th, 2009.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Harry, W7HSA	Jon , AD7AW
Rich, KK7VH	Jim, N7RHX
Mike, AD7TH	

Salmon Run: Rick KE7EMW reports all but one of the Salmon Run pledges have been received totaling over $ 4,000.00. The Salmon Run team is currently developing the list of recommended projects for Salmon Run Funding.

Awards Banquet: Rick KE7EMW reported that the Awards Banquet was well attended. Al Lentz W7AML won the RCT Jacket raffle.

President's Gavel: Jill K7JIL took tonight's opportunity to present a newly approved tradition; the presentation of the past president's gavel. This year to Randy Thompson AD7FF who was unable to make the Awards Banquet.

2 Meter Net: Bud Mitze K7BUD reviewed the 2 meter net process and control operators and announced the need for a replacement control operator.

ARES/RACES: - Ken N7ELF described the newly approved use of the Club's 2 meter repeater on Monday evenings for the ARES/ RACES emergency communications net. Ken also provided a brief description of the local area ARES/RACES zones and operations. All are welcome to check in, and join in the emergency communications efforts underway by the Pierce County Department of Emergency Communications and the ARRL ARES; and State RACES organizations. After all we are licensed by the FCC as the Amateur Radio Service

OLD BUSINESS: None appeared

NEW BUSINESS: None appeared

PROGRAM: Jill K7JIL promoted tonight's program; "You and Your Beginning with Ham Radio" This program offered members and guests an opportunity to tell about their start in Ham radio and their experiences along the way. It was so popular; we only managed to hear about half of those in attendance. Jill K7JIL said we'll do it again to try to pick up the rest of the interesting stories.

DISCUSSION TOPICS: None Appeared

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None Appeared

HINTS AND KINKS: None Appeared

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: None Appeared

DOOR PRIZE: ARRL Antenna Compendium was won by Dick, KA7FXQ

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55pm

GENERAL MEETING
28 January, 2009MINUTES

The 28 January, 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:
Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW
Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM
Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ
Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY
Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 52 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by Vice President Rick Rose KE7EMW

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed. New member Christina announced her call KE7YFD

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

Marian Gurley passed away. The club extends its sympathy and support in this difficult time for Worth W7WG and his family. President Jill K7JIL is planning a memorial at the Clubhouse in honor of Marian's strong support of Worth and so many of the Club's activities over the years.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence & Calendar: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank statements along with the Crawford Mountain repeater site lease agreement and several insurance policy renewals.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Financial information was available for review.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports the current membership stands at 321, and the annual renewal packages should be in the mail by month's end.

2 Meter Net: Bud Mitze K7BUD reviewed the 2 meter net process and control operators and announced the need for a replacement control operator.

PROGRAM EchoLink: Tonight's program was presented by Mike Ping, N3KPU.

Our special guest Mike provided an in-depth presentation on one of Amateur Radio's popular digital internet modes; EchoLink. Mike speaks with personal experience operating his own EchoLink repeater node and having used it to communicate from points all around the world in order to stay in touch with his ham buddies here in the area. Although hampered somewhat by the library's internet port restrictions Mike was able to provide a good overview of the system, some comparisons to its sister mode IRLP, and actually demonstrate the ability to call up EchoLink nodes from his HT in real time.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Next Meeting Program: Bill AD7QI reminded all that the next membership meeting program will be a comprehensive treatment of baluns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: None

April Outing: Steve AD7VL reminded all of the "Radio Active' outing planned for April 13th, at Westport; with multiple activities planned including a one hour all band all mode QSO party, a bunny hunt and perhaps some geocaching.

General Class: Rich KR7W announced an upcoming General Class session beginning on March 2nd and running through April 13th at the Clubhouse from 6:30 to 9:30 pm.

FYBO: Rich KR7W also announced this year's winter QRP field day (aka Freeze Your Buns Off) which will be at the Pt. Defiance Owen's Beach shelter on 7 February. Dress warmly and join the crew.

2 Meter Net Controller: Bud K7BUD again solicited volunteers for the vacant 2 Meter Net Controller position.

Club Door Prizes: Frank AC7JY announced a wide array of door prizes which will be coming up at future meetings.

HINTS AND KINKS: None Appeared

TUNING AND TRAFFIC: Lynn K7OKS notes that VP8 has been on the air with pileups on 20 meters in the afternoons, somewhere in the South Atlantic. Ken N7ELF reports some fun PSK 31 Sprint contacts Saturday.

DOOR PRIZE: A Helping Hand magnifying glass was won by Steve AD7VL

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59pm

VE REPORT John AC7WW

The Radio Club of Tacoma VE Team administered Amateur Radio examinations following a Technician Class at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management January 31, 2009. The twenty seven candidates passed twenty-four Element two exams and two Element three exams. Forty-eight exams were graded.

Twenty-four new Technician class Amateurs joined the ranks of the Amateur Radio Service and two candidates upgraded to General Class. A fourteen year old young lady and an eighty-four year old retired WWII veteran passed the Technician Exam. One candidate failed to get a license.

The next scheduled testing session is Tuesday February 10th, 2009.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

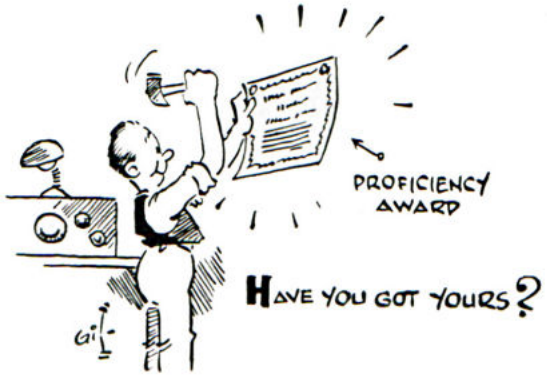
Harry, W7HSA
Al, AC7BU
Rich, KK7VH
Jim, N7RHX
Frank, AC7JY
Roger, WA7ANJ
Steve, AD7VL
Jon , AD7AW
Bud, KE7GB
Stephen, AD7AB
Jill, K7JIL

This cartoon is from **June, 1941 QST Magazine**. Back then, to be a ham, you had to copy Morse code to get your license, or "ticket, as it was called.

The ARRL promoted hams to copy off the air and receive a "Code Proficiency" certificate. With that certificate you could get a good paying job with our Government to help support the WWII war effort in Europe.

Next time you see **Worth, W7WG**, ask him about his adventures with the RID during WWII. His job was to listen for clandestine subversive transmissions from within our country and from afar.

W7WG's Key



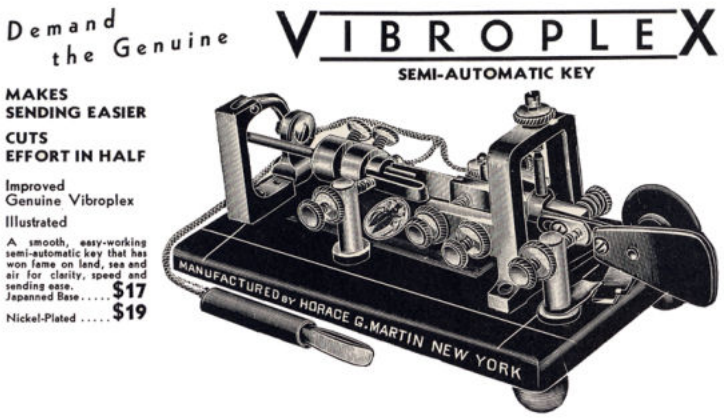
WOULD YOU LOVE TO COME TO A MEETING SOME TIME, BUT YOU DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE DRIVING AT NIGHT? DO YOU NEED A RIDE? PLEASE CONTACT JILL PALMER SO SHE CAN MAKE A LIST AND FIND OUT IF SOMEONE THAT LIVES NEAR YOU MIGHT BE ABLE TO GIVE YOU A LIFT TO A MEETING.

253-539-7772
OR HAMTALKER2@MSN.COM

Jill, K7JIL

More Notes from "The PREZ"

Do you know of someone who needs a little sunshine? Did you just hear about a silent key that was a club member? Please let Jill K7Jil, the Sunshine Lady for the club, know so she can send a card. Her email is hamtalker2@msn.com or phone her at 253-539-7772.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HINTS AND KINKS FOR THE EXPERIMENTER

Which Knob is it Joe?

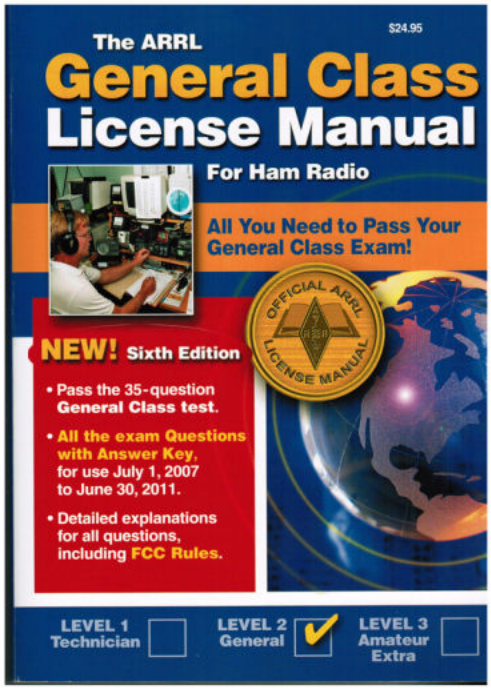
Ever get the knobs mixed up on your radio? Have you spent a few hours using the club's Ten Tec Omni 6 and then come back to your own shack and adjust the wrong volume knob on your own rig? No? Then maybe it's just me.

To alleviate some of my knob confusion… I painted the very end of the knob with some model airplane hobby paint.

Blood red is my favorite indicator color.

I removed the knob from the radio, jammed a make shift shaft in the knob, dipped it in the paint, then suspended the knob upside down in my bench vice until the paint dried hard.

Rich KR7W –30-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• Detailed explanations for all questions, including FCC Rules.
LEVEL 1 Technician
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LEVEL 3 Amateur Extra

Get the 6th edition of the book

NEW! Sixth Edition

Upgrade to General

Announcing a General Class Licensing Class to begin Monday evenings, 6:30 to 9:30 starting on March 2 to April 13

The test date is Tuesday, April 14

Some of this class will be instructed using the Jerry Seligman W7BUN method… where the students teach the class.

This class is intended to be "more than just passing the test".

This class will be facilitated by:
Rich Patrick, KR7W
email: webgeek@w7dk.org
phone: 253-274-8657 before 8:30 pm

FYBO 2009!

Some of our club members recently went to PT. Defiance park to participate in an annual field-day type operation called Freeze Your Buns Off! The FYBO chairperson is Rich KR7W, ably assisted by Chuck AC7QN.

For your enjoyment, we have enclosed a few pictures of the crew FYBO'in!

MUSEUM MUSINGS

News from the Clifford J Doc Spike Museum

What's Up With All of Those Tubes, Doc?

The Radio Club House has an enormous amount of old vacuum tubes stored at the facility. In fact, there are so many tubes stashed away taking up storage space… there is very little room to store other valuable museum pieces. Of course, we don't want to throw out the tubes because the museum could use certain ones for up coming restoration projects as well as selling them to folks who are into the restoration of old equipment. What to do?

The DS Museum Achievers have obtained the RCT Board of Director's permission and a grubstake of $50.00 for supplies to begin sorting and cataloging the collection of vacuum tubes. Work will begin on Feb 12. The plan is to sort by the first digit of the tube, then the second digit, and so on. More info will be reported as the Achievers move forward .

CX or not to CX…

On Sunday, January 25, A few of the Museum Achievers, showed up at the DS Museum to operate in the Winter CX amateur radio contest mostly as an experiment to see if we could be successful. CX? What's that?

The CX contest is better known as the "Classic Exchange". ***Classic*** means old boat anchor types of ham radio rigs. This is where old boat anchor enthusiasts and collectors fire up their treasures and make some contacts. The contest has two parts: The CW part was on Jan. 25. The Phone part is on Feb 15. Notice I said phone and not SSB? Phone in this case will be **A**mplitude **M**odulation… which preceded Single Side Band which is currently the most popular mode of microphone to speaker communication on the High Frequency ham bands.

The CW CX event was moderately successful using the Drake CW station (on loan from KR7W). The CX calling frequency is 14.045 MCs… but the museum rigs are crystal controlled and the closest crystal was 14.050 MCs. Being XTAL controlled took away some of our advantage to make contacts. We called "CQ CX" on the dot-zero-five-O frequency hoping the CXers would come to us.

This strategy worked and we made two QSOs. Jim, W8KGI, in New Mexico, answered us with his Knight T150 transmitter and a National NC-303 receiver. After the equipment exchange he asked if W7OS would QRX for another station. I asked, "What station?", not knowing what he meant. Then he came back with another equipment exchange of "Heathkit DX-20 transmitter and a Hammarlund HRO STA1 receiver. Jim repeated this maneuver two more times with a Johnson Viking-2 transmitter and a Collins 75A3 receiver… and finally a Hallicrafters HT-20 transmitter with a Hammarlund HQ-170 Receiver. This was a pretty long QSO for a contest. One other contact was made with Al, N5AIT in Kentucky. Al was using a Heathkit DX-20 and a Hammarlund HQ-170 receiver. Both Jim and Al replied "FB FB" (Fine Business—means they like it or are impressed) regarding W7OS being at a radio club museum.

Like I said… W7OS is somewhat disadvantaged by being XTAL controlled whilst operating in

Continued next page…

contests like the CX. So an idea occurred:

Let's get a classic transmitter on the air that has a VFO (variable frequency oscillator) so we can zero in on the stations calling CQ. Also, it would sure be fun to have a PHONE transmitter available to attract the non-Morse code club members into the museum. Ta! Da!... Enter the ***Heathkit Apache TX-1 transmitter.***

Since I have been working in the DS Museum for the last six years... this old hulk of a boat anchor has been hard to move outa my way whilst doing this and that remodeling. Hard to move? Yah... it weighs in at 100 pounds and has rubber feet that provided a bit of friction when dragging it across the carpet. Enough of that blather... now the old boat anchor is in the process of restoration to get it back on the air, hopefully in time for the Phone part of the CX contest on Feb 15.

The power supply is always the first thing to refurbish in old radios. The filter capacitors dry up inside and either do not work or explode when the high voltage is turned on. When I switched this rig from STBY to XMIT... POW! And FIZZ! We were graced with the smell of blown capacitors. Immediate shutdown commenced.

The Apache has four power supplies. The RF transmitter high voltage supply is approx +900 Volts DC that is fed by a 1800 volt AC transformer winding. The AM modulator supply is about +400 volts DC and there are two negative supplies for bias battery to feed the RF and AF amplifiers. The AM modulator is actually a 100 watt audio amplifier with the same components that Heathkit used in their high quality audio amplifiers they sold in the fifties and sixties. Lots of transformers makes this rig quite heavy.

The new capacitors are here and ready to be installed... hopefully today. And hopefully the Apache will fire up without any other issues

Steve, AD7VL, was visiting the DS Museum during the first CX contest and he took a liking to the old Apache lying on the restoration table with some if its innards removed. He was so interested, in fact, that he contacted a ham friend of his, and arranged to purchase the friend's matching Heathkit RX-1 Receiver, the

The TX-1 Apache (sometimes known as the "Scratchy Apache") is on top. The RX-1 Mohawk is below. Both are circa 1958.

Mohawk, and donated it to the Museum... to give the Apache a mate. I've not seen the Mohawk, but I hear it is in good shape and fires right up. Next time you see Steve, AD7VL... give him your "Way to Go, Steve and Thanks!"

Rick Rose, KE7EMW, membership chairperson and RCT Vice Prez reports that a donation of $100 came to the DS Museum from an anonymous (to me) benefactor for the continuation of the restoration of the Museum. The story goes that the benefactor saw the donation jar in the museum and wanted to donate. Way to go! And thank you from the museum group.

If the Apache is on the air soon... and can be used in the Phone CX contest on Feb 15... I will alert the membership to get the word out.

Best Regards... Rich KR7W
-30-

Happy Birthday February

Day	Name	Call	RCT Number
1	Ollie Bond	**AD7CC**	2211
2	Gail Ferguson	**K1GCF**	2387
2	Gwen Roberts-Root	**KD7NES**	2085
5	Emily Watson	**KE7QXC**	2357
8	Albert Mitchell	**KB7MPU**	2323
9	Joe Pavia	**KD7LJ**	853
10	Rich Manson	**N7ANF**	395
11	Doug Oakman	**AD7AV**	2141
14	Bill Phillips	**KE7KJY**	2319
14	Mark Terjeson	**N7FIT**	1655
15	Elaine Lyle	**N7WGO**	2291
15	Gary Kohtala	**K7EK**	637
15	Ken Gibson	**N7ELF**	2300
16	Dave Reed	**WA5OK**	670
18	Gail Jasmer-Wilson	**KE7PFY**	2341
19	Donna Hathaway		784
19	Oliver Larsen	**W7WIA**	604
21	Pam Terjeson	**KC7AZV**	1686
22	Tressie Hughes	**KC7BAL**	1684
24	John Thomas	**N7JFM**	1232
25	Joe Baldassari	**W7RQ**	2115
27	Ed Root	**KC7OKS**	1879
28	Crystal McAleer	**KE7QWX**	2354

This years Radio Club of Tacoma **F**reeze **Y**our **B**uns **O**ff QRP Winter Field Day was held Saturday, Feb 7th, at the usual place: Point Defiance Park at the Owen Beach picnic shelter.

Chuck AC7QN, Alan N7OMS, and Rich KR7W began set up at about 8:00 AM. The WX was seemingly warm and balmy. No wind. The temp gauge read 36 degrees. I began ferrying equipment from my van to the shelter at about 7:45 with nearly short sleeves.

The first order of business was to get a 40 meter station on the air before this band faded out. Chuck and Al erected Al's new antenna… a two band, 20 and 40 meter inverted-V that is supported by a center pole and the wire elements are the guy wires to keep the pole safely erect. Because Al built the antenna to roll up on a spool… the antenna was put up in no time at all. Good planning and engineering pays off. The 40 meter CW station was on the air by 08:55 and made contact with WD7Y in Nevada. Ed was running 5 watts and it was 33 degrees F at his operating position.

The next task was to erect the 20 meter vertical antenna right next to the surf and extend a feed line into the shelter. KR7W provided this vertical antenna that is made from a collapsible 16 ft fiberglass fishing pole. The radials are made from old cat 5 network cable. It was all collapsed and ready to deploy. A stake pounded into the surf and dressing out the radials as guy wires was all that was needed to get this antenna on the air.

This year KR7W brought all of his QRP radios… which includes: Heathkit HW-9, Elecraft KX1, and a Yaesu FT-817. AC7QN Chuck brought his newly completed Hendricks QRP PFR3 radio. All radios were used to make CW contacts. It was my first time using the PFR3 which performs equally to the Elecraft KX-1. Changing radios was fun and interesting to some of the visitors. 2 forty meter CW QSOs and 15 twenty meter QSOs were made by the CW station using the N7OMS two band Inverted-Vee.

New for this year is Alan N7OMS's Yaesu FT-897 transceiver. Al operated at 5 watts and made 17 SSB QSOs on the 20 meter band.

By 2:30 PM 20 meters had pretty much faded out and the RTTYers were clogging up 40 meter CW. At about 3:00 when Chef Roger KE7EMW's coffee was gone… we pulled the

20 meter vertical submerged in the surf. Some driftwood came by and knocked one of the radial / guys loose. At this angle JA stations boomed in.

plug on both stations and picked up our stuff. By this time the tide had come in and submerged the vertical antenna in the surf by about two feet. Not wanting to get wet… I pulled the antenna out by the RG-8 feed line

Did I freeze my buns off? Not at first. But when the breeze picked up from the north… I was cold. I had to use a straight key instead of paddles to send intelligible Morse code. I was glad I had a pad to sit on. It took a while for me to warm up once I got home.

Thanks to all of the visitors who came by.

Regards, Rich KR7W -30-

To the left is Alan N7OMS operating his new Yaesu FT-897.

Above is the center pole supported Inverted Vee dual band antenna. The antenna elements are the guy wires also.

To the right is Rich KR7W in the background operating at the CW station. Forward is Chris KE7LDE operating the SSB QRP station.

All fotos by Pat WT7N

Hope you can make it next year, Joe…

The Radio Club of Tacoma's

Logger's Bark

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Club Officers

President: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net
Secretary: Larry Watson, KD4VOM, royretreat@mailcan.com
Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ k7awj@arrl.net

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Burleson K7HW burleca@mashell.com
Harry Adams W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com
Gary Kohtala K7EK gary.k7ek@gmail.com
Gary McAdams,WG7X wg7x@arrl.net
Frank Palmer AC7JY ac7jy@msn.com

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net
Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...
Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

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Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970
Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5
Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark
Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.
PO Box 11188
Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:

FEBRUARY2009 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays February11th and 25th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday February 4th, 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are/ were welcome.

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.